The Crappy Christmas Party & Simone's Story

YOU MAKE SURE TO BRING EVERYTHING, JACK?
YES, AND IF I DIDN'T, I'M NOT GOING BACK TO GET IT!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
WHY CAN'T THEY LIVE IN THE CITY LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE?
AIN STATION
YOU KNOW THE SACKHOFFERS LOVE A SUBURBAN SETTING.
AND STOP WHINING. IT'S ONLY A MILE TO THEIR PLACE.
GRR!
OH, YOU MADE IT! THE CHRISTMAS PARTY JUST WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITH-OUT YOU.
WE WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
1491 WILM

Roz Gibson: Script, pencils, inks
David Hopkins: Pencils

I DON'T THINK YOU'VE MET MY GRANDDAUGHTER SEPKA. SHE'S STAYING WITH US FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

HI!!

CAN I TAKE YOUR COAT AND PRESENTS?

=SIGH=

HI! I'M SEPKA!

SO I HEARD.

ARE YOU SIMONE'S GRANDSON OR SOMETHING?

...OR SOMETHING... YEAH.

DO YOU REALIZE YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON UNDER 70 THAT I'VE SEEN ***ALL MONTH?***

I CAN SHOW YOU AROUND THE HOUSE IF YOU WANT.

THERE'S ***LOTS*** OF INTERESTING ROOMS.

LEAD ON.

IT COULDN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN JUST SITTING THERE.

--AND OVER ***HERE*** IS THE PANTRY.

THAT'S WHERE WE KEEP THE ***FOOD!***

AND ***THIS*** IS THE ART ROOM!

GRANNY AND GRAMPY ***LOVE*** COLLECTING ART.

I CAN TELL YOU THE HISTORY OF EVERY SINGLE PIECE HERE--

OH NO!!

I THINK I HAVE A BETTER IDEA--

OOHH!

THIS SHOULD SHUT HER UP FOR A FEW MINUTES.

HEE HEE!

THIS IS ***SO*** NAUGHTY!

JACK!! WHERE ARE YOU?!

IT'S TIME TO EAT!

SHIT!

GIVE ME A MINUTE!

YOU GET HERE RIGHT NOW!!

WE CAN'T START UNTIL EVERYONE IS HERE AND I'M STARVING!!

GRR!

COME ON!

THE CHEEZY-POOFS WILL SINK IF WE DON'T EAT THEM SOON!

NO, NO!

NOT THERE! OVER HERE.

I WANT HER WHERE EVERYONE CAN SEE HER.

SO-- YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE US A PREVIEW OF YOUR BOOK!

YES!

AT LEAST THE FOOD IS DECENT...

I WANTED TO GET SOME FEEDBACK ON THIS PARTICULAR CHAPTER BEFORE I WRITE IT.

THIS WAS WHEN YOU LIVED IN THE CITY OF ICE?

CRUNCH!

YES--TWO YEARS AFTER THE GOVERNOR TOOK POWER.

THE GOVERNOR!

DID YOU EVER MEET HIM?

CAT FOOD

OH YES! MANY TIMES. REMEMBER MY OWNERS WERE ON THE CITY COUNCIL.

HE WAS SO TALL AND IMPRESSIVE! HE COULD QUIET A ROOM JUST BY WALKING IN. IF THERE WAS EVER A GOLDEN TIME IN THE CITY, IT WAS THE YEARS RIGHT AFTER HE TOOK POWER. EVERYONE WAS FILLED WITH HOPE... FOR THE FIRST TIME.

AND YOU KNEW BRINDA?

BRINDA...

SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL AND GLAMOROUS!

AT THE TIME THIS STORY HAPPENED SHE WAS VERY PREGNANT, AND KEPT TO THE SECURE AREAS OF THE CITY.

BUT EVEN SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT SHE STILL LOOKED BETTER THAN ANY OTHER WOMAN IN THE CITY.

DID ANYONE KNOW THEN THAT THE GOVERNOR WAS THE FATHER?

WE ALL SUSPECTED--

CAT FOO

EVERYONE KNEW ABOUT THEM...BUT IT WASN'T ANYTHING YOU TALKED ABOUT. OPENLY, AT LEAST.

NOT IN FRONT OF HER ***HUSBAND***, I IMAGINE!

I NEVER LIKED HIM. HE LOOKED AND SOUNDED TOO MUCH LIKE HIS FATHER. I ALWAYS FELT IT WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MUCH TO DRIVE HIM OVER THE EDGE-- AND HE WOULD TURN INTO THE SAME TYPE OF MONSTER HIS FATHER WAS.

I KNOW HE WOULD'VE LEFT ALL US NONHUMANS IN THE CITY TO DIE.

BUT HE ALWAYS DEFERRED TO THE GOVERNOR. EVERYONE DID.

SO DO YOU THINK THE RUMORS WERE TRUE-- ABOUT ***THEM***?

CREATORS ONLY KNOW!

IT'S NOT ANYTHING THEY EVER TOLD ***ME***.

BUT THIS ISN'T ABOUT ALL THAT.

YOU KNOW IN THE CITY I WAS INVOLVED WITH ANIMAL RIGHTS.

ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THE GOVERNOR DID AFTER TAKING POWER WAS TO CRACK DOWN ON THE BREEDING AND SELLING OF ANIMALS FOR THE SEX TRADE. BUT IT WASN'T EASY. THERE WAS A ***LOT*** OF MONEY INVOLVED, AND THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE IT UP.

BESIDES IT BEING THE RIGHT THING TO DO, THE GOVERNOR HAD ONE VERY GOOD REASON TO GO AFTER THE ANIMAL SEX BROKERS-- WE CALLED THEM 'MILLERS' IN THE CITY-- THEY WERE HIS BEST CHANCE TO FLUSH OUT ARTIE WYNDAM.

ONE OF THE FEW OF THE CHAIRMEN'S SUPPORTERS TO ESCAPE THE BLACK DAY PURGES, ARTIE WAS THE LEADER OF THE RESISTANCE-- THE LOYALISTS.

VICTOR ASTENBURG MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIGUREHEAD, BUT ARTIE WAS THE BRAINS. EVEN WITH A HUGE REWARD ON HIS HEAD, HE WAS STILL AT LARGE AFTER TWO YEARS.

BUT ARTIE WYNDAM HAD A WELL-KNOWN WEAKNESS-- HE LIKED HIS GIRLS YOUNG, AND IN ORDER TO GET A STEADY SUPPLY, HE WAS IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE MILLER NETWORK IN THE CITY.

WE'D TRIED FOR YEARS TO INFILTRATE THAT NETWORK, WITH NO SUCCESS.

UNTIL THE ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUP I WORKED WITH WAS CONTACTED BY A WOMAN...

SHE'D COME ON BEHALF OF A FRIEND, A MRS. MONGOLIAN.

NOW REMEMBER, EVERYTHING IN THE CITY WAS DONE BY PROXIES.

THERE WAS NO SECURE WAY TO SEND MESSAGES ELECTRONICALLY, SO EVERYTHING WAS DONE IN PERSON, WITH DAMPERS TO PREVENT SPYING.

MRS. MONGOLIAN HAD A HALF-BROTHER WHO BRED ANIMALS FOR THE MILLERS.

HE CROSSED THE WRONG PERSON, AND PAID FOR IT.

THAT TYPE OF BUSINESS DIDN'T ATTRACT VERY NICE PEOPLE.

THEN THEY CAME TO HER. THEY KNEW HER BROTHER HAD LEFT ONE OF HIS PRIZE ANIMALS WITH HER, AND THEY WANTED IT. OR ELSE.

SHE WAS ABLE TO PUT THEM OFF FOR A FEW DAYS BY CLAIMING THE ANIMAL WAS SICK, BUT THEY'D BE BACK, AND SHE HAD A 10 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER TO THINK OF. SHE WAS TERRIFIED THE MILLERS WOULD KILL BOTH OF THEM AS WITNESSES.

SO SHE SENT HER FRIEND TO US, KNOWING WE COULD CONTACT THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY SENT ME TO MEET MRS. MONGOLIAN. I COULD HIDE, SO NO ONE WOULD SEE ME IF THE MILLERS WERE WATCHING HER FLAT.

THIS WAS CONSIDERED SO IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNOR SENT NEMO WITH ME, POSING AS THE FRIEND'S SON.

NEMO! THE MIND READER!

HOW COULD YOU STAND TO BE NEAR IT?

HE WAS CREEPY, BUT I WAS USED TO HIM.

HE COULD ALSO BLOCK OUR PERCEPTION OF HIM, SO WE'D FORGET HE WAS THERE.

MRS. MONGOLIAN OFFERED TO LET US USE HER BROTHER'S ANIMAL TO INFILTRATE THE MILLERS'S NETWORK.

IN EXCHANGE SHE WANTED A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY, AND A BERTH ON ONE OF THE SHIPS FOR HER AND HER DAUGHTER.

THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH SHIPS TO TAKE EVERYONE IN ONE TRIP.

UNLESS YOU WERE PART OF THE GUARENTEED FIRST GROUP-- MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT--YOU TOOK YOUR CHANCES WITH THE LOTTERY. AND SHE LOST.

RUMORS WERE RAMPANT THAT NO ONE WOULD RETURN FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND, SO PEOPLE WERE DESPERATE TO GET ON THE FIRST FLIGHT OUT. BERTHS WERE WORTH KILLING FOR, OR RISKING DEATH...

WE ASKED TO SEE THE ANIMAL FIRST.

SHE WAS EASILY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL NONHUMAN I EVER SAW IN THE CITY. SHE COULD GET ANY PRICE THEY WANTED ON THE BLACK MARKET.. NO WONDER PEOPLE HAD ALREADY BEEN KILLED OVER HER.

THE GIRL-- HER NAME WAS EDIE*-- HAD BEEN RAISED WITH MRS. MONGOLIAN'S DAUGHTER.

SHE WAS ONLY 10, BUT ANIMALS BRED FOR LABOR OR THE SEX TRADE MATURED FASTER THAN HUMANS.

* PRONOUNCED EE-DEE

THAT THOUGHT OF THAT INNOCENT BEING TURNED OVER TO THE SLAVERS MADE ME SICK TO MY STOMACH.

MRS. MONGOLIAN AND HER DAUGHTER LOVED EDIE LIKE A FAMILY MEMBER, BUT SHE FELT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GIVE HER CHILD A FUTURE ON EARTH.

AND MAYBE THE ONLY CHANCE TO SAVE EDIE.

THEN NEMO, WHO HAD BEEN MENTALLY RELAYING THE CONVERSATION TO THE GOVERNOR, GAVE US HIS ORDERS.

THE TERMS WERE AGREED TO-- BUT EDIE AND HER HUMAN 'SISTER' WERE TO BE TOLD NOTHING.

THEY BOTH HAD TO BELIEVE SHE WAS ACTUALLY BE SOLD TO THE SLAVERS.

NOTHING OTHER THAN REAL EMOTION WOULD FOOL THEM, THOSE WHO MADE A CAREER OF CONTROLLING ANIMALS.

THEN I FOUND OUT WHAT *MY* PART IN ALL THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE--!

I THINK THIS IS A GOOD SPOT FOR A BREAK.

I KNOW YOU'RE ALL EAGER TO GET TO THE GIFT EXCHANGE!

I'LL GO GET THE NUMBERS!

YAY!!

OH SHIT...

OKAY-- EVERYONE HAS THEIR NUMBERS!

SO WE GO FROM LOW TO HIGH

SIMONE, YOU GOT NUMBER ONE, SO YOU PICK FIRST

OH! OH! GET THE BIG ONE, JACK!

THAT SHOULD BE SOMETHING GOOD!

THIS IS.... VERY INTERESTING...

HOW....NICE...

=SNERK=

I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM

I KEEP TELLING YOU TO NOT DRINK SO MUCH POP WHEN WE GO OUT!!

READY TO GET BACK TO BUSINESS?

OOOKAY-- LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE HERE.

SEPKA!!

COME ON HONEY!

YOUR TURN!

!!

COMING!!

OH, I JUST *LOVE* OPENING PRESENTS!

WORLD'S GREATEST GRANDPA

HERE DEARIE-- YOU CAN HAVE THESE. I CAN'T HAVE ANY MORE ALCOHOL SINCE MY LIVER REGEN...

OH THANKS GRAMPY!

I LOVE THOSE!!

LIQUOR SAMPLES

YOUR TURN, MR. SALEM.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS GET THE SMALL BOX.

THAT'S SURE TO HAVE SOMETHING GOOD IN IT.

=GLUG=

=GLUG=

WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?

THAT'S A SHRIMP DEVEINER, SONNY.

JUST THE THING FOR COCKTAIL PARTIES.

WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE!

OW!

WC
GR
GR

I'M SURE JACK WILL GET A LOT OF USE OUT OF IT, MR. SACKHOFFER!!

WORLD'S GREATEST GRAMPA

LIQUOR SAMPLES

OKAY-- I THINK WE'RE ALL READY TO HEAR THE REST OF SIMONE'S STORY NOW.

=SIGH=

NOW YOU REMEMBER TO PAY ATTENTION, JACK!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE TRANSCRIBING THIS LATER.

SO, THE GOVERNOR WANTED *ME* TO GO WITH EDIE WHEN SHE WAS TURNED OVER TO THE MILLERS.

THE TECHS IMPLANTED A COMMUNICATOR IN MY FRONT LEG. THE SLAVERS WOULD HAVE DAMPERS, BUT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SNEAK AWAY AND CALL FOR HELP.

THAT WAS THE PLAN, ANYWAY.

EDIE WAS TOLD I WAS A LAST GIFT FROM HER 'MOTHER,' MRS. MONGOLIAN.

IT BROKE MY HEART THAT I WASN'T ALLOWED TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH.

I KNEW HOW CRITICAL IT WAS TO CATCH ARTIE WYNDAM AND BREAK UP THE SLAVER GANGS, BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT ANY EASIER.

MRS. MONGOLIAN CONTACTED THE MILLERS, AND THE TRADE-OFF WAS TWO DAYS LATER.

NEMO CAME IN PLACE OF HER DAUGHTER, TO PICK WHAT HE COULD OUT OF THE SLAVERS'S MINDS.

AND TO KEEP THEM FROM KILLING HER.

NEMO COULD MAKE THEM FORGET THAT THEY HAD ORDERS TO LEAVE NO WITNESSES.

INSTEAD OF NEMO ALL THEY SAW WAS A HYSTERICAL GIRL.

SINCE THE CHAIRMEN WERE GONE, NEMO COULD USE HIS POWERS WITH IMPUNITY, AND HE WAS ***VERY*** POWERFUL.

EDIE SCREAMED WHEN THEY TOOK HER.

AT LEAST MRS. MONGOLIAN HAD THE DECENCY TO LOOK UPSET ABOUT IT.

THEY PUT US ON A TRANSPORT WITH BLACKED-OUT WINDOWS.

EDIE CRIED AND CRIED AT BEING TAKEN AWAY FROM THE ONLY FAMILY SHE KNEW.

I FELT AWFUL FOR HER, BUT I WAS ALSO SCARED.

EDIE HAD PROMISED TO COOPERATE IF I WAS ALLOWED TO STAY WITH HER, BUT I KNEW WE'D BE HANDED OFF TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE. WOULD THEY LET ME STAY? OR JUST KILL ME?

WE WERE KEPT PRISONER FOR WHAT I LATER LEARNED WAS THREE WEEKS.

THEY TOOK GOOD CARE OF HER--

SHE WOULD'VE BEEN WORTH A LOT LESS BEATEN OR RAPED.

WE WERE MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE, ALWAYS WITH DAMPERS ON SO I COULDN'T CHECK IN.

EDIE WAS FORCED TO SUBMIT TO MULTIPLE MEDICAL EXAMS.

VERIFIED VIRGINS WERE WORTH QUADRUPLE WHAT A NON-VIRGIN WAS.

CAMERAS WATCHED US ALL THE TIME TO MAKE SURE SHE DIDN'TTRY TO ESCAPE, OR COMMIT SUICIDE, AND THAT THE GUARDS BEHAVED THEMSELVES.

I LOST TRACK OF TIME. I HAD NO IDEA WHERE IN THE CITY WE WERE.

THEY MOVED US WITHOUT WARNING, AND NEVER SPOKE EXCEPT TO GIVE ORDERS. I WAS TERRIFIED THAT THEY'D KILL ME AT ANY TIME, BUT AS LONG AS EDIE COOPERATED THEY LEFTME ALONE.

FINALLY WE WERE TAKEN SOMEWHERE DURING THE DAY.

NONE OF THEM WERE MASKED, AND THAT SCARED ME MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE. IF THEY WEREN'T HIDING THEIR FACES, THAT MEANT THEY WERE CERTAIN NO ONE WAS GOING TO GET AWAY TO REPORT WHO THEY WERE.

MY IMPLANT WAS STILL QUIET. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO VIBRATE WHEN IT WAS OUTSIDE A DAMPER, SO I KNEW I HAD TO GET AWAY SOMEHOW BEFORE I COULD REPORT OUR LOCATION.

IT TOOK ME A MINUTE TO RECOGNIZE ONE OF THE MEN THERE.

ONCE I DID, I REALIZED ONE OF THE REASONS WE'D BEEN HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE TRACKING ARTIE WYNDAM DOWN.

ALL THIS TIME WE'D BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH ***ONE*** ARM.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE DIDN'T USE A PROSTHETIC ARM FROM THE START.

DIDN'T THEY HAVE THAT TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY?

I'M NOT SURE!

ONE OF MY OWNERS THOUGHT HE DID IT BECAUSE HE KNEW LOOKING AT HIM MADE PEOPLE UNCOM-FORTABLE.

OR IT WAS SOME KIND OF TWISTED BRAGGING, TO SHOW OFF WHAT HE'D BEEN THROUGH.

IN ANY EVENT, ANYONE WHO KNEW FOR SURE IS LONG DEAD.

I DID NOTICE HE SEEMED TO HAVE LIMITED USE OF IT, SO MAYBE THE ORIGINAL STORY OF THE NERVES BEING TOO DAMAGED TO SUPPORT A FULL HOOK-UP WAS TRUE.

BUT NONE OF THAT MATTERED THEN.

ALL I KNEW WAS THAT I ***HAD*** TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY LEFT.

ONCE ARTIE TOOK EDIE IT WOULDN'T MATTER IF SHE COOPERATED, AND I WOULD BE OF NO USE ANYMORE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THERE WERE ARMED MEN EVERYWHERE, AND I DIDN'T KNOW HOW FAR I'D HAVE TO RUN BEFORE I GOT OUT OF THE DAMPER'S RANGE.

BUT I HAD TO TRY!

THIS WOULD BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO HAVE BOTH ARTIE WYNDAM AND THE TOP MILLER IN ONE PLACE.

I COULDN'T WAIT ANY MORE.

BUT WHEN I STARTED TO MOVE, TO GET INTO POSITION TO BOLT, ARTIE LOOKED AT ME.

HE LOOKED AT ME.

AND HE ***KNEW*** ME!

HE RECOGNIZED ME!

BECAUSE MY OWNERS WERE ON THE COUNCIL, I'D BEEN TO MANY COUNCIL EVENTS.

ARTIE REMEMBERED ME, AND IN AN INSTANT KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

IT'S A SET-UP!!

KILL THEM!!

ARTIE'S MEN WERE ALL EX-SECURIDOZE, AND EVERY ONE HAD A GUN.

THE MILLERS DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.

MOST WERE SLAUGHTERED BEFORE THEY COULD EVEN DRAW A WEAPON.

I TRIED TO RUN, BUT I WAITED JUST A SECOND TOO LONG.

HE MUST'VE THOUGHT NEMO WAS WATCHING REMOTELY THROUGH ME, OR I WAS BEING TRACKED SOMEHOW.

ALL HE WANTED TO DO WAS GET ME OUT OF THAT BUILDING AND AWAY FROM HIM.

SO HE THREW ME OUT THE WINDOW.

I REMEMBER BEING SHOCKED AT HOW HIGH UP WE WERE.

I THOUGHT WE WERE IN THE LOWER LEVELS, BUT WE WERE ALL THE WAY UP ON THIRD.

THE FALL WOULD'VE KILLED ME ON EARTH, BUT GRAVITY IN THE CITY WAS ONLY 70% OF EARTH'S, AND I WAS LIGHT TO BEGIN WITH.

AND REMEMBER WE CATS ALWAYS LAND ON OUR FEET!

THE FALL BROKE MY JAW, BOTH MY FRONT LEGS, RUPTURED MY DIAPHRAGM AND FRACTURED MY PELVIS.

I FELT THE IMPLANT IN MY LEG BUZZING, MEANING I'D FINALLY CLEARED THE DAMPER.

THE PAIN WAS WORSE THAN ANYTHING I'D FELT BEFORE OR SINCE.

BUT SOMEHOW I MANAGED TO ACTIVATE IT.

SECURITY ARRIVED WITHIN MINUTES.

BUT I KNEW... I KNEW THEY WERE TOO LATE.

ARTIE AND HIS MEN WERE LONG GONE.

MOST OF THE MILLERS WERE DEAD. THE TWO SURVIVORS WERE INTERROGATED BY NEMO, AND WITH THAT INFORMATION SECURITY WAS ABLE TO GUT THEIR ORGANIZATION.

SECURITY

SECU

THROUGH SOME MIRACLE EDIE WASN'T KILLED IN THE CROSSFIRE.

SHE WAS HYSTERICAL FROM FEAR, BUT HER ONLY INJURY WAS A RICOCHET HIT TO THE ARM.

THANK THE CREATORS ARTIE DIDN'T BOTHER TO TAKE HER WHEN HE RAN. OTHERWISE WE NEVER WOULD HAVE GOTTEN HER BACK.

I FELT HORRIBLE OVER WHAT HAD HAPPENED, BUT WHO KNEW ARTIE WOULD RECOGNIZE A PET?

WHILE I WAS AT THE CLINIC I GOT TWO VERY IMPORTANT VISITORS.

BRINDA REMINDED ME THAT EDIE WAS SAVED BECAUSE OF ME.

THAT THE TOP MILLER WAS DEAD.

THAT BECAUSE OF ME THEY HAD INVALUABLE NEW INFORMATION ABOUT ARTIE WYNDHAM'S APPEARANCE AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR HIM.

I SAW EDIE A FEW MORE TIMES, SINCE SHE WAS BEING TREATED AT THE SAME CLINIC AS I.

SHE STILL LOOKED AS INCREDIBLE AS EVER.

EVEN THE GOVERNOR NOTICED HER.

SOMETHING BRINDA WAS ***NOT*** HAPPY ABOUT!

POOR EDIE WAS NEVER THE SAME.

SHE'D BEEN LIED TO AND BETRAYED BY THE ONLY PEOPLE SHE EVER TRUSTED AND LOVED.

SHE WAS EVEN MAD AT ME, SINCE I KNEW THE TRUTH AND DIDN'T TELL HER.

BUT INSIDE SHE UNDERSTOOD THAT I'D FACED THE SAME RISKS AS SHE DID.

AND EVEN MORE SO. SHE WAS VALUABLE PROPERTY TO THE SLAVERS. I WASN'T.

AND I GUESS HER UNDERSTANDING WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD ASK FOR.

I RECEIVED A REWARD AND OFFICIAL COMMENDATION FOR MY WORK.

BUT EVEN NOW, MY LEGS AND HIPS HURT IN DAMP OR COLD WEATHER.

SO EVEN IF I WANTED TO, I COULDN'T FORGET WHAT HAPPENED THEN, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GIRL-- EDIE?

I KNOW SHE WAS ON ONE OF THE FIRST SHIPS OUT, BUT NOT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER AFTER THAT.

I'LL HAVE JACK TRY TO FIND HER... SHE SHOULD STILL BE ALIVE.

YEAH, WITH MY LUCK SHE ***WILL*** BE! AND I'LL HAVE TO INTERVIEW HER.

WORLD'S GREATEST GRANPA

I GOTTA USE THE BATHROOM AGAIN.

AT LEAST YOU WAITED UNTIL I WAS DONE WITH MY STORY.

SORRY KIDS-- YOU MIGHT WANT TO WAIT A SPELL BEFORE GOIN' IN.

!!

THAT'S OKAY!!

AG!! WHY ARE WE *HERE*?!

LET'S GO TO THE BEDROOM.

THIS IS THE ONLY ROOM WITH A LOCK.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL LIGHT A MATCH.

OKAY...OKAY... I DON'T THINK I CAN GIVE YOU A BLOWJOB NOW.

I THINK I DRANK A *LITTLE* TOO MUCH AND I MIGHT THROW UP....

NO KIDDING?

GETTING LAID IS *NOT* WORTH THIS!

HEE HEE

MY BC SHOT RAN OUT TOO, SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO ME IN THE BUTT!

I'M GONNA FUCK YOU UNTIL YOU PASS OUT.

OOH!...SEXY!

OOH!
OH YEAH!!
SMOKE?
AREN'T YOU--UH-- SUPPOSED TO SMOKE ***AFTER*** YOU'RE DONE?
OH FUCK!!
HEY! DON'T STOP--!
UH OH!
TURN ON THE FUCKING SHOWER!!
EEK!!
WHOOSH!!!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!!

EEEK!!

FIRE!!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

ACK!!

I CAN'T GO OUT WITHOUT MY TRAVEL BAG!!

BARF

--DIDN'T SEEM TO SPREAD MUCH BEYOND THE BATHROOM, BUT UNTIL THE SMOKE CLEARS AND THE WINDOWS ARE FIXED YOU'LL NEED TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO STAY.

OH DEAR! WHERE WILL WE STAY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE?

COME TO MY PLACE, I INSIST!

YOU CAN SLEEP IN JACK'S BED, I'M SURE HE WON'T MIND SLEEPING ON THE COUCH.

CAN LITTLE SEPKA COME TOO?

OF COURSE! THE MORE THE MERRIER!

YAY!!

LOOK!

I SAW HOW MUCH YOU LIKED THIS WHEN YOU GOT IT, SO I MADE SURE TO GRAB IT ON THE WAY OUT!

MAYBE YOU CAN USE IT WHILE WE'RE VISITING!

YES, I'M SURE I WILL...

Gibson/Hopkins 2016